

LEUCOSPIS GIGAS FABRICIUS (INSECTA, HYMENOPTERA,
LEUCOSPIDAE) PROPOSED TO BE PLACED ON THE OFFICIAL
LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY Z.N.(S.)2038

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Tourette's summary of his French illustrated description of a Leucospid species (1780 : 746) reads "*Cinips (lugdunaea) nigra, maculis luteis notata, femoribus . . .*" but he failed to give it a clearly binominal name. This seems to have been evident already to Villers (1789 : 261) and to Gmelin (1790 : 2653), who proposed *Leucospis gallica* Villers and *Cynips lugdunaea* Gmelin, respectively, for Tourette's species. Another name, *Leucospis gigas*, was eventually proposed by Fabricius (1793 : 245), although he at the same time referred to Villers' publication, while the Gmelin paper was probably not known to him or somehow escaped his attention. From the way in which Fabricius quotes Villers' description it can be assumed that even in this case he had only some second-hand information or simply disregarded its validity. In any case, probably due to Fabricius' authority, his name *gigas* has been in use ever since, while *L. gallica* Villers and *L. lugdunaea* (Gmelin) were forgotten and since 1790 not used except in synonymy. Tourette's paper is very rare and so the reviser of the group, Schletterer (1890), could not check it and probably assumed from Fabricius' action that Tourette also used the name *gigas*, as may be seen from his citation in the synonymy (1890 : 203). This certainly contributed to the removal of any doubt about the validity of the name in subsequent years.

I came across this problem when preparing a revision of the world species of the group. The purpose of my proposal is to maintain a name which has been in current use for 180 years, but the usage of which could be upset by a strict application of the Law of Priority.

The International Commission is therefore requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
 - (a) *gallica* Villers, 1789, as published in the binomen *Leucospis gallica*;
 - (b) *lugdunaea* Gmelin, 1790, as published in the binomen *Cynips lugdunaea*;
- (2) to place the specific name *gigas* Fabricius, 1793, as published in the binomen *Leucospis gigas*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific names suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

There are more than thirty papers in which the name *Leucospis gigas* F. has been used during the last fifty years (while the other two names have not been used at all), out of which I selected the following ten to satisfy the provisions of the Code:

- Berland, L., 1934a, *Revue fr. Ent.* 1 : 66–68
— 1934b, *Bull. Soc. zool. Fr.* 59 : 172–175
Bouček, Z., 1959, *Acta ent. Mus. natn. Pragae* 33 : 438, 442–443
Bytinski-Salz, H., 1963, *Acta ent. Mus. natn. Pragae* 35 : 527–530
Ceballos, G., 1941–1943, *Las tribus de los Himenopteros de España*. Madrid.
(p. 180)
Grandi, G., 1951, *Introduzione allo studio della Entomologia*. 2. Bologna (p. 1033)
Grassé, P. P., 1951, *Traité de Zoologie*. 10, 1 : 933, 944
Günther, K. and others, 1968, *Insekten, Urania Tierreich*. (p. 320)
Nikolskaja, M. N., 1952, *Opred. Faune SSSR*, 44 : 79
— 1960, *Fauna SSSR. Hymenoptera*, 7, 5 : 197, 204–207

OTHER REFERENCES

- FABRICIUS, J. C. 1793. *Entomologia Systematica*. 2. viii + 519 pp. Copenhagen and Kiel
GMELIN, J. F. 1770. *Caroli a Linné Systema Naturae*. 1 (5): 2225–3020. Leipzig
SCHLETTERER, A. 1890. Die Gruppe der Hymenopteren-Gattungen *Leucospis* Fab., *Polistomorpha* Westw. und *Marres* Walk. *Berl. ent. Z.* 35 : 141–302, pls. 5–6
TOURETTE, DE LA. 1780. Mémoire sur une nouvelle espèce de mouche, du genre des *Cinips*, trouvée dans l'enceinte de la Ville de Lyon. *Mém. Mathem. Phys.* 9 : 730–746, pl. 1
VILLERS, C. DE. 1789. *Caroli Linnaei Entomologia*. 3. 657 pp., pl. 8. Lyon